



A L O H A

from
**Councilmember
Todd K. Apo**

As of July 1, 2007, the City's new fiscal year went into effect. Councilmember Apo shares his thoughts on this year's budgeting process.

Speaking from experience, the City budget is a daunting, complex, and, at times, an enigmatic task that must be handled with care. As Budget Chair for the City and County of Honolulu, the greatest lesson learned in this first year is that there is no perfect budget -- there will always be disagreements.

Using my training as a basketball official, my mindset was to lead budget hearings by making the best call (without the whistle), while keeping the overall process fair. With various comments on the City budget, I want to share my perspective, hoping to foster understanding and encourage more public participation in the future.

The budget process can be described as multiple balancing acts: limiting government size and spending increases versus providing the needed and demanded City functions; providing reasonable tax rates and tax relief to homeowners versus other residential properties (including rental properties) versus non-residential properties (commercial, industrial, and hotel/resort) versus agricultural lands.

In this balancing effort, I pushed for the creation of a City policy that determines how real property tax revenues are allocated between residential and non-residential properties. Previ-

See "Budget policy" on page 4

Weed & Seed unites Ewa neighbors

Award-winning site focuses on youth and area crime prevention

This past summer, about two dozen students from Campbell High School spent their days learning how to maneuver their way around a professional kitchen. The 50+ hour program, led by Chef Grant Sato, culinary instructor with Kapiolani Community College, was developed through the Ewa Weed & Seed

Site, as they worked on ways to reduce truancy and youth-related crimes and keep kids interested in school and graduate. Honolulu Police Department's Juvenile Division is also instrumental in supporting the summer culinary program, cooking and chopping along with the students.

Weed & Seed is a United States Department of Justice initiative that is administered locally by the United States Attorney's Office. Initiated in 1992, the strategy currently includes more than 300 sites in 226 cities across the country. Operation Weed & Seed is a collaborative strategy that service agencies with private businesses, non-profit organizations and residents

See "Weed & Seed" on page 2



Teachers and program supporters celebrate with this year's graduates of Chef Grant Sato's Summer Culinary Program at Campbell High School.

Recycling awareness and opportunities

31st Aloha Aina recycling fundraiser hosted by Nanakuli High School, Waianae Civic Center

As we continue to deal with the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill issues and work toward eliminating its daily use by the City, it is important for all of us to learn how to identify what should not to go into the landfill and participate in recycling to reduce the amount of waste we create.

On Saturday, August 25, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., the City will be sponsoring its Free Hazardous Waste Disposal day. Items such as fertilizers, gasoline, paint thinners, and others are considered hazardous and must be disposed of properly. For a complete list of hazardous wastes, more information, or to

set up your household's appointment on Free Hazardous Waste Disposal day, call 692-5411. You can also visit the website at www.opala.org for information.

On Saturday, September 15, 2007, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Waianae Boat Harbor, Nanakuli High School Hawks Club, Nanakuli High School Parent Teacher Association, and the Waianae Civic Center, Paiolu Kaiaulu are hosting the 31st Aloha Aina Earth Day recycling community cleanup project. Participating Earth Day recycling partners will take your recyclable products and donate

See "Recycling and Clean up" on page 3

\$11.5M in federal grants available to local organizations

Local organizations and non-profit agencies can now apply for approximately \$8 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and \$3.5 million in HOME Investment Partnership program grants.

CDBGs are awarded to projects and programs that principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons, aid elimination of slums and blight, or meet other urgent community needs. Past recipients of CDBG grants have included Easter Seals, Goodwill Industries, Catholic Charities, Helping Hands Hawaii, Hina Mauka Alcoholic Rehabilitation Services of Hawaii, Institute for Human Services, Lanakila Rehabilitation Center, Mutual Housing Association of Hawaii, Pacific Gateway Center, Parents and Children Together (PACT), Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, and the YMCA.

HOME money is available to community housing development organizations and other qualified private nonprofits that

develop and support affordable rentals and homeowner-ship. Community housing development organizations seeking to develop multifamily rental housing are given top priority. Recipients have included Saint Francis Healthcare Systems, Hawaii Housing Development Corporation, Housing Solutions, and Pacific Housing Assistance Corporation. ♦

* The deadline for applications for both grant programs is **August 31, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.**

* For Requests for Proposals go to the following website: **www.honolulu.gov/pur**

* A new email notification system will allow applicants for federal grants, available through CDBG and HOME, to receive online notification of funding as they become available. Applicants may register on the web at: **www.honolulu.gov/budget/cdbg.htm**

Weed & Seed

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to reclaim, restore and rebuild their neighborhoods.

The Weed & Seed strategy is based on a two-pronged philosophy: to “weed” out the criminal element in the chosen community; and to “seed” the community with prevention, intervention and treatment activities along with economic revitalization programs at the same time.

The 4 key elements of the Weed & Seed strategy are: Law Enforcement; Community Policing; Prevention, Intervention & Treatment; and Neighborhood Restoration.

The Ewa/Ewa Beach Community was designated a Weed & Seed site in February 2002 and since then has received local and national recognition for their efforts. Most recently, the Ewa Weed & Seed Site received the 2007 Kapolei Outstanding Achievement (KOA) Award as Outstanding Community Service Organization.

According to site coordinator, Gale Bracerros, it took time to develop the Ewa and Ewa Beach area into a community that actively practices the “Weed & Seed” philosophy. The transformation of Pu’uloa Neighborhood Park in Ewa Beach is a prime example of the local community taking back the neighborhood.

“Pu’uloa Park is a small park, surrounded by single dwelling homes off Fort Weaver Road. A lot of residents thought having a park there was a disadvantage because so much illegal activity happening. They didn’t go to use it because of the drugs, prostitution, the homeless,” explained Bracerros.

“We went door to door to do a survey

on what the concerns and problems were,” because initially, people did not want to come to a meeting, she said. As trust and numbers of interested residents grew, a meeting was held, and residents were asked what they wanted to see happen. “They wanted to take the park back... so what we did was focus on target areas to do our weeding and seeding efforts,” Bracerros said.

With the help and support of Ewa Lions Club and First Hawaiian Bank, Ewa Weed & Seed began to hold regular meetings and increase neighborhood participation. They were able to recruit 38 residents to start a neighborhood security watch. Some members adopted Pu’uloa Park, partnering with the City’s Department of Parks and Recreation to regularly paint over graffiti and clean the grounds.

“It started with 6 families – now we have 15 families (participating). Residents use the park. It’s being used a lot now,” Bracerros stated.

Other organizations, such as EWAlution, The Boys and Girls Club and Drive Safe for Ewa are partnered with Ewa Weed & Seed to continue the mission of keeping youth involved in their community, such as the quarterly clean up “Make a Difference Day.” The key is to have the youth get involved and invested in their neighborhood, said Bracerros.

Honolulu Police Department has three officers working with the Weed & Seed sites. “What they mainly do is they partner with training for (citizen) patrols, and working with youth. The goal is to have the youth build a trusting relationship with them. Officers come to events in regular clothes,” said

Bracerros. Officers help with ocean sport programs, where kids learn ocean skills and water safety, and they participate in community clean ups, as well.

HPD also accompanies the citizen patrol. Wearing an identifying shirt or safety vests, residents walk around their block, look for illegal activities, abandoned vehicles, make reports to HPD. “Being visible lets people know we’re watching our street and will not tolerate illegal things happening,” said Bracerros.

“Our goal is to get the majority of the streets to have a neighborhood security watch, have neighbors get to know each other, and watch out for each other’s homes and the streets (from their own home). Call their neighbor. Call 911. If there’s 60% participation in a block– a Neighborhood Security Watch sign will be posted,” said Bracerros.

AUGUST 10th: National Night Out Against Crime

On Friday, August 10, the Hawaii community will join America’s Night Out Against Crime. This event will spread awareness about neighborhood safety and anti-crime programs. Join Hale Pono Ewa Boys and Girls Clubhouse, Safe Haven and Ewa Weed & Seed as they co-sponsor this celebration from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Hale Pono Ewa Beach Clubhouse, 91-884 Fort Weaver Road, Ewa Beach. The event will start with Safe Haven’s Ohana Food Distribution, Night Out Block Party, followed by EWAlution’s Movie on the Wall. For more information, contact Gale Bracerros at 689-4182. ♦

SAT SEPT 15th Aloha Aina Earth Day #31

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Waianae Boat Harbor, Farrington Highway

RECYCLE YOUR TRASH!
Join our volunteers and recyclers to help
clean our community and raise funds for
**Nanakuli High School &
Waianae Civic Center, Paiolu Kaiaulu**

Please load up your vehicles and bring to the Waianae Boat Harbor

- + scrap metal, appliances, pipes, beams, car parts, bicycles
- + newspaper, cardboard
- + beverage containers - HI-5
- + tires (passenger tires only/ 1 load per household)
- + green waste
- + car batteries
- + useable clothing and household items
- + cellular phones
- + printer cartridges
- + one computer per residential household (1 per car)
- + cooking oil
- + fishing lines and fishing nets
- + confidential items for shredding (shredding will be done on site & recycled)

All items collected will be recycled and their cash value will be donated back to the community.

NO UNLISTED FLUIDS OF ANY KIND - LOADS WILL BE REJECTED

Mahalo to our Earth Day Partners:

*Schnitzer Steel Hawaii Corp.
Refrigerant Recycling, Inc.
Honolulu Recovery Systems
Unitek Solvent Systems
Hawaiian Earth Products
Interstate Battery Systems of Hawaii
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii
Intrade Corp.
T & N Services
Shredex Hawaii
Pacific Biodiesel
Grace Pacific Corporation
International Coastal Cleanup
"Get the Drift & Bag It"
State of Hawaii
City and County of Honolulu*

Recycling and clean up

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the raised monies to our Waianae Coast host organizations.

All Oahu residents and area businesses are encouraged to take advantage of this day to clean out their homes/businesses and help Nanakuli High School and Paiolu Kaiulu at the same time. The recyclable products wanted for the disposal are listed above.

For those of you who have big bulk pick-up items, arrangements can be made to have a van or truck drive to your location to retrieve your recycling disposables.

Also on Sept. 15: Get The Drift & Bag It

The September 15th Aloha Aina is special because it coincides with "Get the Drift and Bag It," which is an annual, statewide beach cleanup in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup Day. In Ewa, the Oneula Surf Club annually leads the community clean up of Oneula Beach Park, Hau Bush. This entire day is a great opportunity to get involved in helping the community and taking care of

our island. You can bring in your recyclables to the Aloha Aina Earth Day Recycling at Waianae Boat Harbor, be a volunteer, help pick up opala at the beach, or do all three. We will have volunteer truck drivers going to different "Get the Drift and Bag It" beach sites to pick up any other recyclables collected, which means more money for Nanakuli High School and Paiolu Kaiaulu. ♦

Want to Volunteer? Have Questions? For Aloha Aina:

*If you have any questions or can volunteer your time at
Aloha 'Aina and/or donate use of a van/pick-up truck,
please call Kimo Keli'i at 586-8465 or
Rene Mansho at 306-1876.*

For Get the Drift & Bag It:

*If you would like to volunteer at the Hau Bush Beach Clean Up, please contact Darrell Iha at 456-9173,
or email oneulasurf@yahoo.com*



HIGHLIGHTS

Members of the Honolulu City Council considered numerous legislative items during the most recent Committee Week cycle, which was July 31-August 1. A few of the measures discussed during this period include the following:

Zoning Committee

Bill – 53 (2007) – Ewa Zone Change. Proposes to re-zone the parcel located at 91-101 Malakole Street, (former Hawaii Raceway site) from Agricultural District to Intensive Industrial District (I-2). Document: [http://docs.iis01:8080/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-130762/BILL053\(07\).htm](http://docs.iis01:8080/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-130762/BILL053(07).htm)

Planning and Sustainable Development Committee

Resolution 07-207 – Curbside Recycling. Introduced by Councilmember Apo, this resolution supports the City's implementation of a curbside recycling pilot program. Document: <http://docs.iis01:8080/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-130475/RES07-207.htm>

Budget Committee – August 1, 2007

Resolution 07-232 – Suspension of Fares On The-

Bus. Allows for the temporary suspension of bus ride fares on Route 504 in conjunction with the opening of the Mililani Transit Center in August. Document: <http://docs.iis01:8080/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-131736/2hz781gm.pdf>

Resolution 07-224 – CDBG and Home Project Selection. Introduced by Councilmember Apo, this resolution re-establishes a selection committee to recommend projects for Community Development Block Grant and HOME funding for Fiscal Year 2009. Document: <http://docs.iis01:8080/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-131584/2hfg4zb9.pdf>

All Council and Committee meetings are televised live and periodically rerun on 'Olelo Channel 54. In addition, members of the public are encouraged to attend and may present testimony in person or via fax or email. For more information about these meetings or other scheduled committee meetings, please visit the Council's website at: <http://www.honolulu.gov/council/index.htm> ♦

Budget policy

(Continued from page 1)

ously lacking such policy, each sector's tax burden would largely increase or decrease due to property valuations swings, while tax rates would seldom change. These inequities are illustrated by the residential market run over the last four years. With the passage of Resolution 07-60, CD1, which allocates 55% of tax revenues to residential properties and 45% to non-residential properties, the City will be in a better position to adjust tax rates annually and account for market valuation swings. More importantly, the policy will create a focus on controlling costs, instead of focusing on how much revenue the City has to spend.

The City budget is larger than it has been in the past. A part of that is due to the continued growth of our City and the services we as taxpayers expect – police protection, trash pickup, roads, sewers, parks. Another part of that is due to the new, negotiated and arbitrated raises for City workers, mandated cost items that voters created as charter amendments and from new government accounting standards requiring us to now pre-fund future post-employment benefits costs for retirees and employees. Another part of that is dealing with an aging sewer system, EPA mandates, and basic infrastructure needs. Dealing with some of these large cost items today will mean long term savings for taxpayers. While it is easier to not fund these and lower tax rates today, we chose to do the financially responsible thing. It's better to pay \$1 today instead of \$5 tomorrow. The Council worked diligently to control spending and growth, carefully questioning each department about its operations, and cut specific line items where possible.

In the end, the Council passed a budget smaller than what the Mayor asked for, with real property tax rates lower

See "Real property tax rates" on page 6

CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR

**AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER**

AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING

Aug 15 9:00 a.m. Weds

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Sept 4	9:00 a.m.	Tues	Zoning
Sept 4	1:00 p.m.	Tues	Planning & Sustainability
Sept 5	9:00 a.m.	Weds	Budget
Sept 5	1:00 p.m.	Weds	Executive Matters
Sept 5	3:00 p.m.	Weds	Aff.Housing/Economic Dev
Sept 6	9:30 a.m.	Thurs	Transportation/Pub Works
Sept 6	1:00 p.m.	Thurs	Intergovernment Affairs
Sept 6	2:30 p.m.	Thurs	Public Health, Safety & Wlfr

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Sept 19 9:00 a.m. Weds

COMMITTEE WEEK

Sept 25-27 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING

Oct 17 9:00 a.m. Thursday

COMMITTEE WEEK

Oct 23-25 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Kamokila Boulevard extension, City ferry highlighted at Ewa Transportation Coalition

Councilmember Apo hosted the quarterly meeting of the Ewa Transportation Coalition on Tuesday, June 26, 2007 at Honolulu Hale.

Melvin Kaku, Director of the City's Department of Transportation Services and Steve Kelly, Manager of Development for Kapolei Property Development LLC, presented information on the various transportation/roadwork projects underway or pending through out the Ewa and Kapolei areas.

Among the City projects that were discussed, Director Kaku explained that the City's portion of the Kamokila Blvd Extension was well underway. This project will connect Kamokila Boulevard to F.D. Roosevelt Avenue. Cost of the project includes \$300,000 for planning; \$400,000 for design; \$2,750,000 for construction. Currently, the planning work is complete and the design phase is 5% completed. Mr. Kelly reported that the Kapolei Property Development portion of the project is already under construction.

An overview of the recently relocated Kapolei Transit Center from Wakea St. to Haumea St. was shared. Director Kaku reported that the street fixtures and bus shelters would be installed soon. Cost of the relocation project is \$10,000.

Details on the City's Intra-Island Ferry Service were provided. The City received the "Notice to Proceed" from the Federal Government on January 9, 2007 and has entered into an agreement with Hornblower Marine Services to provide a two-boat operation. The Melissa Ann and the Rachel Marie, both of which are 72 feet in length and can accommodate 149 passengers, will be arriving in Honolulu sometime in August. There will be three supporting bus routes to and from Kalaeloa and two routes to and from Aloha Tower daily. The project is expected to begin in late August 2007 and run for 6-12 months. \$5 million dollars in Federal funds will be used to pay for the one-year project.

Information on the Kapolei Pkwy Extension (Phases 8B and 8C) and the Makakilo Dr. Extension were also presented.

Additionally, Mr. Kelly provided extensive information on the many projects that Kapolei Property Development LLC is undertaking throughout the region including the overall development in the City of Kapolei, the Kapolei Interchange – Phase 1, and the Urban Core Roads throughout the City of Kapolei to name a few.

The meeting summary which contains additional details for all of the projects that were presented can be found on Councilmember Apo's website at www.toddapo.org. To receive a hard copy of the meeting summary via US Postal or via fax, please contact our office at (808) 547-7001. ♦

WATCH

WESTSIDE SOLUTIONS
With
Councilmember Todd Apo

THURSDAYS, 8:30 pm
'Olelo Channel 54



54

community event notes...

Attendance for Waianae Coast Sunset on the Beach estimated at 50,000 people

The 2007 Waianae Coast Sunset on the Beach was a huge success! As in years past, the event was held at Maili Beach Park on Saturday, July 14 and Sunday, July 15, 2007. The weather on both days was beautiful.

The volunteer planning committee in partnership with Valley of Rainbows, a Leeward Coast non-profit organization supporting the youth of the Leeward Coast, provided all with great food, fun activities and a different full-length movie each night.

A special mahalo to Waianae Neighborhood Board Chair, Patty Teruya for her leadership in organizing another great Sunset event.

Kapolei Regional Park: 2007 Aloha Festivals Kapolei Mele site

Kapolei Regional Park is the site of Oahu's newest Aloha Festivals event – Aloha Festivals Kapolei Mele. The event is scheduled for September 15th from 5 to 9 p.m.

There will be five entertainment stages with live music, arts and crafts, food vendors and a special appearance by the Air Force's "Tops in Blue."

The Kapolei festivities are sponsored by the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaiian Airlines, Kapolei Property Development, the Bank of Hawaii and Waste Management.

For information on this and other statewide Aloha Festivals activities go to www.alohafestivals.com or call (808) 589-1771. ♦

Real property tax rates: lower than Administration proposed

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than the administration proposed: \$0.30 less for residential properties, and \$0.10 less for commercial, industrial and hotel/resort properties. For homeowners, the Council provided a \$200 tax credit and their basic exemptions will rise from \$40,000 to \$80,000 for the upcoming fiscal year. We strengthened the "circuit breaker" rules, which provide that homeowners with incomes of \$50,000 and below will not pay more than 4% of their income for real property taxes (which drops to 3% for those over 75 years old).

In this entire process, I want to emphasize that public participation is always key. With over a dozen public hearings on the budget between March and June, ample opportunity existed for public participation. I assure you that written and in-person testimony are read and considered in the budget process. Each individual request is important, yet it must be balanced within the overall budget. It is the duty of your elected Councilmember to understand the depth of all 85 pages of the budget bills, the 1,000+ pages of program budget material, and how it affects you.

Now that the specific budget is completed, it is time for the public, through neighborhood boards and community

groups, to give feedback about various program and operational priorities for the City and County of Honolulu. With this information, both the Mayor and the Council can improve on the budget process.

The City must show results for the taxes we collect and the operations we undertake. In our budget, everyone wants lower taxes. In basketball, everyone wants the close call to go in favor of their team. If not that, then at least the game contributed to the long-term well-being of everyone involved, was completed, and everyone was treated fairly. At the City, that means balancing every district, community and individual resident. As I often tell my officiating crew at the end of a game, "I think we worked a good game, and we can improve on it." I hope we can all continue to work together to improve our City budget process and the City's budget in years to come.

As always, you can email me at tapo@honolulu.gov. During the year I regularly send out electronic newsletter updates, so please visit my website at www.toddapo.org and join our mailing list. If you have any other questions, please feel free to call me at 547-7001.♦

FREQUENTLY CALLED PHONE NUMBERS

Abandoned Cars	733-2530	Pothole Hotline	768-7777
Building Violations	527-6308	Pothole (State)	536-PUKA
-Residential	527-6341	Real Property Tax	527-5500
-Commercial/ Multi-Family	527-6037	Opala ENV Hot Line	692-5656
-Construction Violation	523-4881	Recycling Coordinator	692-5409
-Grading Violation	523-4685	Road Maintenance	
Bulky Items Pickup	697-1178	-Ewa to Koolina	455-1725
Bus Pass Info	848-4444	-Nanakuli to Makua	696-3421
Bus Schedule	848-5555	Sewer Billing	523-4408
Camping Permits	523-4525	Sewer Maintenance	523-4421
City Complaints	523-4381	Street Lighting	564-6119
City Information	523-4385	Tree Trimming	971-7153
Emergency Mgmt	523-4121	Voter Information	523-4293
(formerly Civil Defense)		Water Supply	748-5050
Graffiti Hotline	527-5180	-Broken Water Main	748-5010
Overflight Hotline	1-888-697-7813	Zoning Violations	768-8220
Parks Maintenance	675-6033		
Parks Permits	523-4525		
Parks Department	692-5585		

